

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 23-25 were pending in the application. New claims 26-28 are edited by this paper. Claim 1 has been amended, and no claims have been canceled. Consequently, claims 1-15 and 23-28 are now pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by European Publication No. EP 0 505 065 (EP '065). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited based on the following grounds.

First, however, in view of some of the Examiner's detailed comments, it has only now become clear to Applicant that there may have been possible deficiencies in the claims. The claims now clearly define over the cited art and no new search or issues are created hereby. This provides good and sufficient reason for entry of the amendments at this time. See MPEP 714.12 and 37 CFR 1.116(c). Accordingly, as the amendments and new claims place this case in form for allowance, the amendment should therefore be entered.

Claim 1 has been amended to positively recite, in part, that a portion of the surface of the base remains uncovered by the body after the body has been attached to the base. The layer of conductive material is then depositing so as to extend continuously over an uncovered portion of said surface of the base, as well as being deposited on at least one of said channel surfaces to provide an electrode on each channel surface and a conductive track on said surface of the base. The conductive track is integrally connected to the electrode. Note that claim 1, as amended, now specifically recites that a portion of the base remains exposed and/or otherwise uncovered by the body after the body has been attached to the base.

By comparison, even a quick glance at Fig. 3(a) of the '065 reference reveals that no portion of the base remains uncovered by the body after the body has been attached to the base. Further, as amended, claim 1 specifically addresses the italicized comment made by the examiner on page six, first paragraph, of the detail action. Accordingly, the cited reference simply cannot anticipate amended claim 1.

Moreover, there simply cannot be a valid *prima facie* case of obviousness based even in part on the '065 reference. In order to reach the invention as claimed by claim 1, one would have to completely disregard the express teachings outlined in detail in Figs. 3(a)-3(c) of the reference, which expressly show that the entire base is covered by the overlying body.

There simply would be no suggestion to discard these teachings without using applicants own disclosure as a template, and no such suggestion can be found in the reference in any event. The '441 reference adds nothing of relevance to amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is an allowable form.

Claims 2-15 and 23-25 all depend from claim 1, either directly or through intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2-15 and 23-25 are also in allowable form.

Applicant submits herewith new claim 26 in which positively recites, in part, the steps of providing a base having a planar surface, applying a piezoelectric body overlying the base and leaving a portion of the top surface of the base uncovered by the body, forming a channel in the body and the base, the channel having a pair of opposed channel sidewalls oriented generally perpendicular to the planar surface of the base, with a flat surface of the uncovered portion remaining after forming the channel. A layer of conductive material is then deposited over the uncovered portion to form a conductive track, the layer of conductive material also deposited over and covering at least a portion of at least one of the channel sidewalls to form an electrode. The conductive material extends continuously from the electrode to the conductive track.

By comparison, once again the '065 reference plainly does not disclose and does not suggesting leaving a portion of the base uncovered by the body. Consequently, on the cited reference there simply cannot be a layer of conductive material deposited over the uncovered portion of the base to form a conductive track. Therefore, new claim 26 is an allowable form.

Applicant also submits herewith for consideration new claim 27, which recites, in part, providing a base having a planar main surface, applying a piezoelectric body overlying the base and leaving a portion of the main surface of the base uncovered by the body, forming a channel in the body and the base, the channel having a pair of opposed channel sidewalls oriented generally perpendicular to the planar surface of the base, a flat surface of the uncovered portion remaining after forming the channel, depositing a layer of conductive material over the uncovered portion to form a conductive track, depositing the layer of conductive material over at least a portion of at least one of the channel sidewalls to form an electrode, and using the base to support the conductive track with no intervening piezoelectric material between the conductive track and the base. Thus, and once again referring to the Examiner's helpful comments, new claim 27 positively recites that there is no intervening piezoelectric material between the conductive track and the base.

Plainly, even a cursory review of the cited reference reveals an entire layer of piezoelectric material disposed between the overlying conductive wire tracks and the base. In

fact, this intervening layer on the reference must be regarded as an express teachings and cannot be discarded. Further, all of the main surface is covered by the body. Accordingly, new claim 27 is an allowable form.

And also submits herewith new claim 28 which positively recites, in part, depositing a layer of conductive material directly to the surface of the base and covering at least one of the channel surfaces to provide an electrode on each channel surface and a conductive track on the surface of the base.

By comparison, once again the cited reference teaches precisely the opposite and, by inclusion of the substantial slab of piezoelectric material between the conductive layer in the base, plainly precludes depositing a layer of conductive material directly to the surface of the base. Accordingly, new claim 28 is in allowable form.

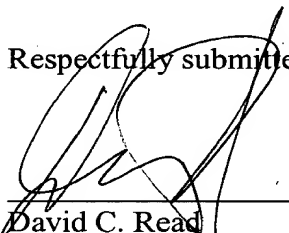
CONCLUSION

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that claims 1-15 and 23-28 are in condition for allowance in view of the foregoing remarks.

The applicants invite the examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to discuss any remaining issues or matters of form that will place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



David C. Read
Reg. No. 39,811
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN
233 S. Wacker Dr.
6300 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 474-6300

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